ANCIENT SKIES

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Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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TEOTIHUACAN - AN INTERPRETATION

BY Dr. Stuart W. Greenwood* and Rose Mary Bhussry**

Teotihuacan was the first and largest city of the Pre-Columbian New World. Located about 25 miles north of Moctezuma's Tenochtitlan(present-day Mexico City),it is described by René Millon of the University of Rochester as having risen,flourished and fallen hundreds of years before the conquistadores entered Mexico(1). At the height of its power,about 500 AD, Teotihuacan was larger than Imperial Rome.

The builders of Teotihuacan are unknown (although attributed to the Toltecs), but names were given to the major features of the city by the Aztecs, who arrived on the scene later. As described by Karl E. Meyer(2),two great pyramids were built in the early years of the city's expansion.As shown in Fig.1,the larger is the Pyramid of the Sun, located alongside the Avenue of the Dead.The Avenue is two miles long and empties at one end into a large plaza in front of the Pyramid of the Moon. At the other end of the Avenue lies a vast compound known as the Citadel, which contains the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the Feathered Serpent.

It may never be possible to determine the underlying concepts that motivated the planners and builders of Teotihuacan, but we shall attempt to do so using the limited data available to us.Quetzalcoatl was a benevolent god held in high esteem by the early inhabitants of present-day Mexico, and was associated with the planet Venus. The names assigned by the Aztecs to the two pyramids appear to support a connection with bodies of the solar system.The term applied to the Avenue was based on the mistaken idea that the mounds that flanked it were tombs, when in fact excavation has revealed a series of small platforms. Regarding the layout of the three main structures, we note that they are not in line with one another, but only approximately so. The relative spacing of the structures is indicated in Fig.1. The distance from the Pyramid of the Sun to the Pyramid of the Moon is 0.69 times the distance from the Pyramid of the Sun to the Temple of Quetzalcoatl. We shall return subsequently to the possible significance of this relationship.

We turn our attention now to some pecked cross petroglyphs (rock carvings) that have been found throughout Central America and Mexico and seem to be particularly prominent in Teotihuacan. According to Anthony F. Aveni(3), practically all possess a 10-1-4-1 pattern of peck marks counting outward along each axis. A typical example is shown in Fig. 2, which is reproduced from the article in Reference 4. The concentric circles are also pecked. The inner circle is 11 peck marks from the center, and the outer circle is 16 peck marks from the center. The ratio of the inner circle radius to that of the outer circle is thus 11/16, or 0.69. We have thus established a connection between the layout of Teotihuacan and the pecked cross petroglyphs. We need to determine whether this connection is substantial or merely coincidental.

If we interpret the major structures in the city as bodies in the solar system, we could interpret the concentric circles in the petroglyphs as orbits of planets around the Sun. These orbits are not strictly circular, but elliptical. However, if we take the semimajor axes of these orbits as close approximations to the radii of equivalent circular orbits,we find that the ratio of the radius of the orbit of Venus to that of Earth is 0.72 and the ratio

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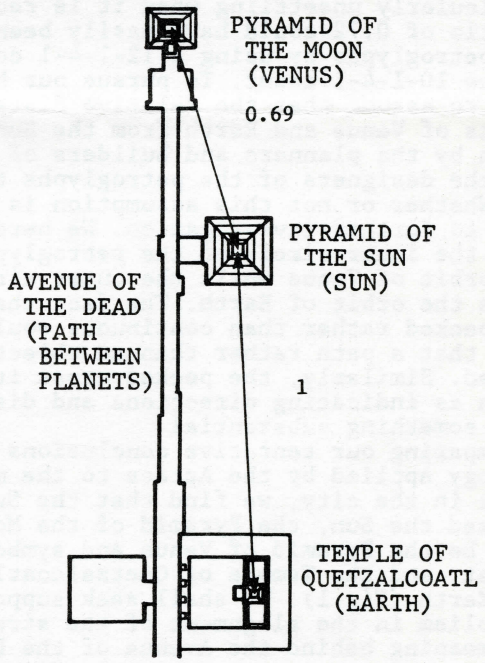

FIG.1. TEOTIHUACAN. Plan of major structures along the Avenue of the Dead, showing relative distances between structures. Symbolism suggested by the authors is in parentheses.

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(Continued from previous page)
of the radius of the orbit of Earth to that of Mars is 0.66. Both these ratios differ from the 0.69 ratio we have been considering by 0.03,or about 5% of 0.69 - rather too large a difference to be encouraging. Perhaps we may be permitted the consolation of recognizing that the 0.69 ratio is intermediate between the orbital radii ratio considered.

If we fall back on the Venus symbolism inherent in the Quetzalcoatl myth, we are faced with the problem that the Temple of Quetzalcoatl lies further from the Sun Pyramid than does the Pyramid of the Moon, whereas the orbit of Venus lies closer to the Sun than does the Earth's orbit. However, the symbolism of the Feathered Serpent exists on Earth (the outline of Florida and the South-Eastern United States as observed from space when overflying Mexico and looking toward the East),so the possibility of a coherent interpretation remains.A difficulty persists, nevertheless,in the employment of the 0.69 ratio in both the city layout and the petroglyphs. This is particularly unsettling when it is recognized that a ratio of 0.72 could have easily been achieved in the petroglyphs by using a 12-1-4-1 count in place of the 10-1-4-1 count. To pursue our hypothesis, we need to assume that the relative distances of the orbits of Venus and Earth from the Sun were not known by the planners and builders of Teotihuacan and the designers of the petroglyphs to better than 5%. Whether or not this assumption is reasonable is open to further investigation. We here speculate that the inner circle of the petroglyphs represents the orbit of Venus while the outer circle represents the orbit of Earth. The fact that the circles are pecked rather than continuous would seem to affirm that a path rather than an object was represented. Similarly, the pecked cross itself could be taken as indicating directions and distances rather than something substantial.

Comparing our tentative conclusions with the terminology applied by the Aztecs to the major structures in the city, we find that the Sun Pyramid symbolized the Sun, the Pyramid of the Moon should in fact be the Pyramid of Venus and symbolizes that planet, and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl symbolizes the Earth (Fig.1). We shall seek support for this symbolism in the alignment of the structures and the meaning behind the Avenue of the Dead.

It is instructive to note that flights from Earth to other planets are carried out using a path that involves arrival at the destination planet when it is almost, but not exactly, opposite the Sun to the position occupied by the Earth at departure.A typical transfer orbit from Earth to Venus is shown in Fig.3, which is reproduced from the publication in Reference 5. Similar considerations would apply for flights from Venus to Earth, except that the transfer orbit would lie in the lower part of the diagram, and the relative locations of the two planets would not be exactly as shown.We infer that the relative positions of the structures at Teotihuacan are symbolic of the locations of the Sun and the planets at departure and arrival of space flights.

It remains to find an explanation for the long, straight street that the Aztecs named the Avenue of the Dead. Correlation with the hypothesis here developed would suggest that the street symbolizes the transfer path for space flights between Venus and Earth.That the street is straight rather than a portion of an ellipse may have resulted from a desire to combine the different Venus-Earth and Earth-Venus paths into a single symbolic path, and to heighten the ceremonial effect. Here the Aztecs could have unwittingly given the Avenue an appropriate name - for those who remained on Venus only death awaited. (See Ancient Skies 11:3 and 11:4)

One can construct in the imagination an awesome pageant at the city ceremonial center. Crowds at the Pyramid of the Moon (Venus) witness the departure of the first space explorers along the Avenue toward the Temple of Quetzalcoatl (Earth). The Venusian explorers then return from Earth to their home planet with information on their new home. The time then comes when the procession has to move to the Temple of Quetzalcoatl(Earth) for the last time.

References:

(1) René Millon, "Teotihuacan", Scientific American,June 1967. Reprinted in "Pre-Columbian Archaeology", with introductions by Gordon R. Wiley and Jeremy A. Sabloff. W.H. Freeman and Company, 1980.

(2) Karl E. Meyer,"Teotihuacan: First City in the Americas". Newsweek Book Division, 1973.

(3) Anthony F. Aveni, "Note on a New Pecked Cross Discovered at Teotihuacan", Archaeoastronomy, January-March 1982, p.6.

(4) A.F. Aveni and H. Hartung, "Note on the Discovery of Two New Pecked Cross Petroglyphs", Archaeoastronomy, July-September, 1982, pp.21-23.

(5) Richard O. Fimmel, Lawrence Colin and Eric Burgess, "Pioneer Venus", NASA Special Publication S.P. 461, 1983.

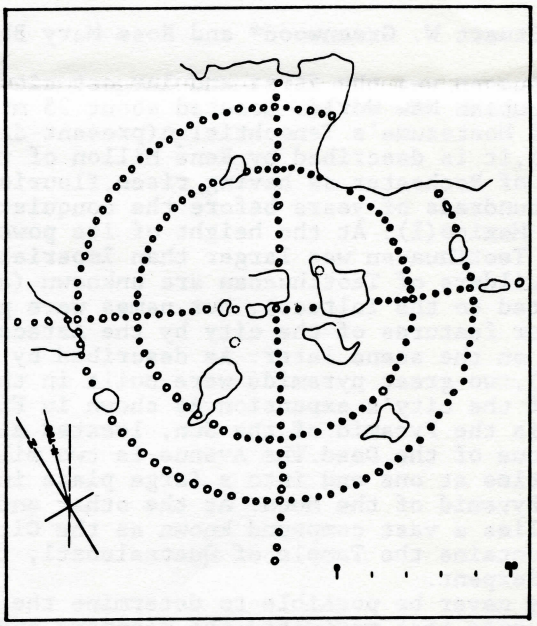

FIG.2. One of several pecked cross petroglyphs at Teotihuacan.

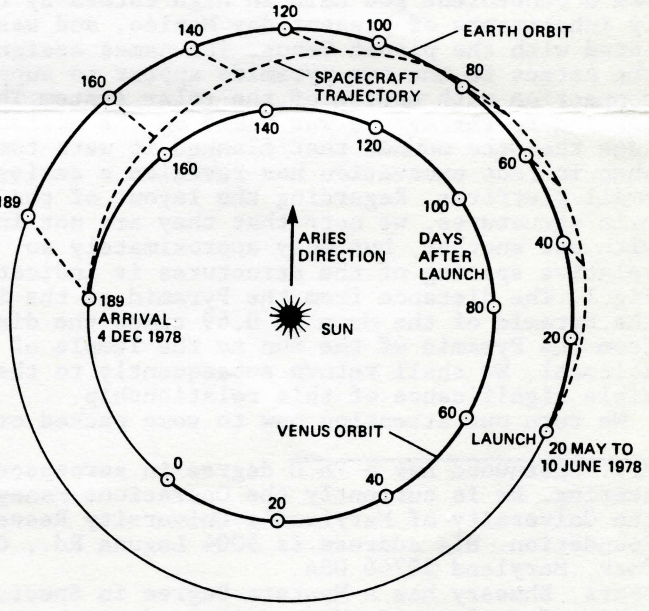

FIG.3. The trajectory of the Pioneer Venus Orbiter. This trajectory minimized the amount of propellant needed to enter into an orbit around Venus.

THE LOST CITIES OF PERU

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

On January 31, 1985 the archaeology department of the University of Colorado startled the public with its announcement of the discovery of a "lost" city in northern Peru, rivaling the famous Machu Picchu. The University reported that it had entered into an agreement with the Peruvian government for a five-year joint excavation of the remote pre-Incan site called Gran Pajaten, located due east of Trujillo.

The University's press release related that a Boulder, Colorado plastic surgeon, Alan Stormo, had heard of the lost city from a guide while vacationing in Peru in 1983. Intrigued by the account, Dr. Stormo enlisted the aid of three other men to accompany him back to Peru to search for the fabled city. One of his group was Tom Lennon, a University of Colorado archaeologist and an expert on Peru. Upon reaching Peru they engaged the services of a veteran guide who led them over a tortuous route for five days before reaching the site.

The press release quoted the archaeologist, Lennon, as saying that "the site has already assumed its place in the mythology of Peruvian archaeology as a 'lost city.' It has been the subject of rumors and unsuccessful expeditions since the beginning of this century, if not from the time of the Spanish conquest."

The story was featured on network television and wire services, receiving worldwide coverage.

In an article in the Chicago Tribune for Sunday February 17, 1985, it was brought out that Gran Pajaten was really not lost after all. The article explained that the explorer, Donald Eugene Savoy, who is the accepted discoverer of Gran Pajaten, devoted several chapters in two of his books to the discovery and that in 1970, a CBS camera crew filmed a documentary at Gran Pajaten, which was featured in several magazines. Further, the Tribune article related, four members of the South American Explorers Club, based in Denver, vacationed at Gran Pajaten in 1983.

The vacationing Dr. Stormo could have saved himself a lot of trouble and expense if he had gone to any souvenir shop in Peru and purchased a copy of the English Edition of Reparaz' Tourist Guide to Peru. He would have discovered the exact location of Gran Pajaten without leaving his easy chair.This is what Reparaz says at page 433 of his Guide:

> "The existence of ruins in this region, situated between the rivers Pajaten and Apisancho, (some 120 kms. SSE of the source of the Utcubamba) was spoken of by the inhabitants of Pataz, but Gene Savoy was the first to seek them out, give them a name and publicize their existence (September 1965)....They consist of round stone buildings in a new and peculiar style, with sculptures of a type hitherto unknown; slabs of limestone forming human and zoomorphic figures - protruding heads of sandstone embellished with feathers and solar coronas; others show condors, also with the ingenious use of limestone. Several Intihuatanas indicate a pre-Incaic sun culture."

If the archaeologist, Tom Lennon, who is reputed to be an expert on Peru, had consulted a copy of the Manual de Arqueologia Peruana, by one of today's leading Peruvian archaeologists,Dr. Federico Kauffmann Doig, he would have seen three photographs of the ruins of Gran Pajaten (also known as El Abiseo) at page 471 of the Fifth Edition of the Manual. The First Edition was published in 1969. The photos show clearly the peculiar sculptures described in the Reparaz quotation above and which were shown in the television news special.

There are literally hundreds of remote sites of ruins in Peru, some hidden in the dense jungles, some in the inaccessible heights of the Andes and others covered by the sands of the coastal region. Some of the sites undoubtedly are truly "lost" - unknown to anyone, but most are known to the local inhabitants, and many have been explored by Peruvian archaeologists, recorded in their annals and forgotten.

In 1911, the American Hiram Bingham "discovered" the "lost" city of the Incas, Machu Picchu. But was it really lost? Bingham did not just stumble upon the ruins - he was taken there by the natives. Machu Picchu was not "lost" to them; it is at the terminus of one of the famous Inca roads.

On the old Inca road from Cuzco to Machu Picchu there are several sites of ruins unknown to the public, but which have been explored and recorded by Peruvian archaeologists. One of these sites (only four miles south of Machu Picchu) was first excavated in 1942 by the foremost Peruvian archaeologist, Dr. Julio C. Tello. Given the Indian name of Wiñay Waina by Dr. Tello, the site rivals Machu Picchu in its setting and grandeur. A model of the site can be seen in the National Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology in Lima, an institution founded by Dr. Tello. A photograph of the ruins can be found in Dr. Kauffmann's Manual at page 550, under the name of Huiñay-Huayna.

Perhaps a future member expedition of the Ancient Astronaut Society can explore the intriguing site of Huiñay-Huayna and bring another "lost" city of Peru to light.

We are pleased to announce that W. RAYMOND DRAKE has been made a Member of L'Académie Européenne des Sciences,des Arts et des Lettres, of Paris, France. The Académie has 38 Nobel Prize winners in its membership. Mr. Drake is the author of the Gods and Spacemen series of books in the ancient astronaut field. A revised English edition of Mr. Drake's Titans in Antiquity will be published in India in 1985 under the title Cosmic Continents. Mr. Drake is enjoying retirement with his wife, Marjorie, in their home in England. His address is 2 Peareth Grove, Roker, Sunderland, ENGLAND.

SUGGESTED READING FOR TURKEY AND GREECE:

ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE (Von Daniken's Proof), by Erich von Daniken, 1977, Souvenir Press, London and G.P.Putnams and Bantam, New York.
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HAGIA SOPHIA, Newsweek Wonders of Man Series.
THE GREEK STONES SPEAK, by Paul MacKendrick, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1962.
GODS, GRAVES AND SCHOLARS, by C.W. Ceram, 1951, Knopf, New York.
HANDS ON THE PAST, by C.W. Ceram, 1966, Knopf.
LAROUSSE WORLD MYTHOLOGY, Hamlyn, New York, 1973.
NEW LAROUSSE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYTHOLOGY, Prometheus Press, New York, 1959
LAROUSSE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARCHAEOLOGY, Putnam, New York, 1972.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE:

January 1958	March 1961
January 1968	August 1972
February 1978	March 1980
February 1981	December 1983

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MEMBER EXPEDITION TO SWITZERLAND, TURKEY & GREECE

Society Members will depart Chicago on Tuesday, September 17,1985 for an exciting journey to Switzerland, Turkey and Greece. Arriving in Zurich the next day, they will proceed to the Hotel Nova-Park for a relaxing afternoon and evening. The entire day on Thursday will be spent seeing the sights of Zurich and in the evening, greeting old friends who will be arriving to attend the 12th Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society. The Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday at the Hotel Nova-Park and will feature speakers from around the world, including Erich von Daniken, world famous author of the best-seller Chariots of the Gods? A gala banquet will be held at the Hotel on Saturday evening.

On Sunday, September 22, the group will depart Zurich for Istanbul,Turkey. Once called Constantinople, and before that, Byzantium, this ancient city is strategically located at one end of the Sea of Marmara, between the Bosporus and the Dardanelles, also called the Hellespont. All day Monday will be spent exploring the sights of this fabled city, including the Hagia Sophia, the Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque.

Next morning the group will fly to Ankara, capital city of Turkey, and visit the Hittite Museum, among other interesting places. Early the next day the group will depart in a private motorcoach to Cappadocia, visiting en route the Hittite ruins at Hattuscha and Bogazkoy.

Thursday will be spent exploring the underground cities of Derinkuyu and Kaymakli, which are typical of the many subterranean dwellings in the area between the villages of Nevsehir and Nigde. In Derinkuyu alone, 20,000 people lived in as many as thirteen different stories beneath the surface of the earth.

Next day the group will travel through the mysterious, moon-like Valley of Goreme, with its conical volcanic stones, into which people have hacked dwellings and churches. After a short night at the small village of Adiyaman, a camel caravan stop on the East-West trade route, the travellers will set out before daybreak in mini-buses for their ultimate goal on this leg of the journey - Nemrud Dagh!

Over 2,000 years ago, King Antiochus I of Commagene erected a fantastic site at the top of a mountain to honor himself, his family and the gods. A short climb will bring the amazed travellers face to face with colossal stone statues of Antiochus, and his entourage, complete with huge stone lions and eagles, all now ravaged by time, man and the elements.

After a reluctant farewell to this remote, enigmatic mountaintop, the travellers will return to Adiyaman for a brief rest and then proceed to the city of Malatya, in central Turkey and a much needed rest. Next morning, the group will fly to Istanbul, via Ankara, and then on to Athens, Greece.

On Monday, September 30, the members will spend the entire day visiting the fantastic structures on and near the Acropolis in Athens,including the Propylaea,the Temple of Athena Nike,the Erectheum and, most important of all, the Parthenon. After a visit to the Acropolis Museum, the group will visit the Theatre of Dionysus, the Ancient Agora and the Stoa of Attalus.

On October 1 the group will begin a four-day tour of the Peloponnese and Central Greece by private motorcoach. First stop - ancient Corinth; then on to Mycenae, the amazing archaeological site first unearthed by the German archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann in 1876, with its cyclopean walls, Lion Gate and Tomb of Agamemnon. Next, Epidaurus, with its 14,000 seat stone, outdoor theatre, one of the world's most perfect, with unbelievable acoustics.

After a restful night at the seashore at Nauplia, the group will visit the archaeological ruins of Tiryns, then on to Argos, Sparta and then a visit to the Byzantine City of Mistras. The group will overnight in Olympia, site of the very first games to bear the name.

Next morning will be spent visiting the marvels of Olympia, including the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the Stadium and the two famous museums. On the road again, the group will motor to Pyrgos, then on to Patras for a visit to the Church of St. Andrew, before taking the ferry across to Central Greece and Delphi for overnight.

Friday morning will be spent amid the ruins of the oracle city of Delphi, including the Temple of Apollo and the lovely Circular Temple to Athena. After a visit to the Byzantine Monastery of Ossios Loukas, the now-weary travellers will proceed to Athens via Arachova, Livadia and Thebes.

Saturday will be a free day to rest, do laundry or enjoy the streets of old Athens.

On Sunday, October 6, those who must return home will proceed to the airport and the remainder of the group will enjoy a leisurely Sunday visiting the National Museum of Athens, or travelling to fabled Marathon or Cape Sounion, or taking the cable car to the top of Mt. Lycabettus for a breathtaking bird's eye view of the city while lunching at the Dionysus Restaurant.

Monday morning the remaining travellers will proceed to the port of Piraeus to board the Epirotiki Lines cruise ship Oceanos for a four-day cruise to visit some of the Greek Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. First port of call - Mykonos, the storybook island with its snowy-white buildings and famous windmills, sparkling in the shimmering sea.

Early Tuesday, the Oceanos will dock at Santorini Island (also called Thera), which is the remains of a gigantic volcano which erupted about 3500 years ago. Many people believe Santorini to be the site of the fabled Atlantis. While on the Island, some adventuresome souls will take a donkey ride to the top of the ancient volcano rim; others will take an excursion to the archaeological dig at Akrotiri.

After a four hour cruise, the ship will dock at Heraklion, port of the Island of Crete, now famous for the ruins of the fabulous Minoan civilization, which was unearthed by Sir Arthur Evans at the end of the 19th Century. The group will visit the Minoan Palace complex at Knossos and see the site of the legendary Minotaur, and then visit the Heraklion Museum for a first-hand look at the famous Phaistos Disc. (See Ancient Skies 7:5).

On Wednesday morning the ship will arrive at the Island of Rhodes, once famous for its colossus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Unfortunately nothing remains of the gigantic statue, but the group will have all day to visit this fascinating island and to take an excursion to the delightful resort of Lindos.

Early Thursday morning the ship will dock at the Island of Patmos, where the group can visit the Monastery of St. John. It was here that the Saint supposedly wrote the biblical Book of Revelations. After a brief stay at Patmos, the next stop is at Kusadasi, Turkey, where the travellers will disembark for an excursion to visit the ruins of Ephesus, the most complete city ever excavated.

Early Friday morning the Oceanos will be back at Piraeus, where a mad scramble will ensue as the travellers will make a dash for the airport for their flight home. If they are unsuccessful in making connections, they will return home on October 11.

Members may participate in the entire expedition, or in any one or more of its segments, namely, Zurich and the Conference, Turkey, the Greek Mainland and the Island Cruise. For a detailed itinerary and prices, members should contact the Society headquarters as soon as possible. Space on the cruise ship is limited.